Amendments

In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 23, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--In addition, RNA was isolated from histocultured or grafted skin subjected to RT-PCR. Skin samples (100mg) were homogenized in 1 ml of TRI REAGENT (Sigma, St. Louis, MO) to extract RNA (13,14). For RT-PCR, approximately 10 μg of RNA was reversely transcribed to first cDNA chains. Reverse transcription was carried out in 20 μl of first-strand buffer, 500 μM of each dNTP, and 20 units of AMV reverse transcriptase (Strategene, San Diego, CA). The primer for the first strand was pGFP antisense. Incubation was at 42° C for 50 min. The products of the reverse transcription were then amplified by the PCR. Mouse β-actin mRNA was used as the standard. As a control, mouse β-actin (514 bp) was amplified by the RT-PCR in extracted RNA from both the GFP-positive and -negative skin. The sequence of the GFP upstream primer was 5′-ATG GCT AGC AAA GGA GAA GAA CT-3′ (SEQ ID NO:1). The downstream primer was 5′-TCA GTT GTA CAG TTC ATC ACT G-3′ (SEQ ID NO:2). The PCR conditions for both GFP and β-actin were as follows: first denaturation at 97° C for 30 seconds; annealing at 55° C for 30 seconds; and extension at 72° C for 45 seconds; then a final extension at 72° C for 10 minutes.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 23, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- The sequence of the ORF-438 upstream primer, which included the Kozak consensus sequence was

5'-CGGAATTCGCCGCCACCATGCCGGAACTCACCCGTC-3' (SEQ ID NO:3).

The downstream primer sequence was

5'-GGCTGATCATTAGTTGGAGGGGAAGGGGAGGAGC-3' (SEQ ID NO:4).

The sequence of the tyrosinase upstream primer, which includes the Kozak consensus sequence was

5'-CTCGAGGCCGCCGCCATGACCGTCCGCAAGAACCA-3' (SEQ ID NO:5).

The downstream primer sequence was

5'-GGATCCTTAGACGTCGAAGGTGTAGTGC-3' (SEQ ID NO:6).--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 16, line 8, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--PCR oligomers were designed according to the sequence of the internal ribosome entry site (IRES) contained in the retroviral vector pLISN, obtained from Clonetech (Palo Alto, CA). The sequence of the upstream primer was

5'-GGCTGATCATTCGCCCCTCTCCCTCCCC-3' (SEQ ID NO:7).

The downstream primer sequence was

5'-AGCGGCCATTATCATCGTGTTTTTCAAAGG-3' (SEQ ID NO:8).--